

**NBC BRIEFING**

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- I. Prime Minister Qasim apparently is trying to keep his high-wire balancing act going by acting toughly against Communist violence while appointing some more extreme leftists with Communist connections to his reorganized cabinet.**
- A. Anti-Communist nationalists had been much encouraged just before the 14 July celebration of the anniversary of the revolution. Some high-ranking army officers said they expected to see many Communists swept out of their key positions in the Iraqi government.**
- B. In an apparent answer to rumors that the Communists might try to provoke large-scale violence, security forces in the capital were heavily reinforced, and Qasim pointedly stated that the army would crush any conspiracy "in a moment."**
- II. Qasim's new cabinet appointments, announced on the eve of the 14 July parades, are cold comfort for those who looked for drastic anti-Communist moves.**
- A. Three of the four new appointees, including Iraq's first woman cabinet member, are extreme leftists who have long been associated with the Communists. Fourth appointee is a personal friend of Qasim's.**
- 1. The three extreme leftists early this month signed the "united front" appeal which was devised by the Communists as a protest against Qasim's prohibition of political activities.**

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**B. All active members of the previous cabinet, which included three pro-Communists along with nine nationalists and army officers, were retained.**

**1. Economy minister Kubba, the architect of the Iraqi-Soviet economic agreements whose ministry was abolished by the reorganization, has been named minister for agrarian reform and acting minister for oil affairs.**

**2. Iraqi propaganda output apparently remains under leftist influence, since the new minister of guidance, Samir, has been president of a left-wing teachers' union and a member of the Partisans of Peace. However, head of Baghdad radio, who used this medium too blatantly for Communist propaganda, is reported to have been fired and possibly arrested last week.**

**III. On Tuesday (14 July), Qasim also announced that he would end the "transitional period," during which political parties must remain inactive, before 6 January 1960 and that a new constitution and elected assembly will come into being next year.**

**A. These announcements, as well as the new appointments to the cabinet, appear designed to reduce the force of Communist criticism without meeting fully the Communist demands.**

**B. At the same time, Qasim reiterated that the exercise of police powers against plotters would remain strictly in the hands of the government--as against the Communists' implicit demand that the masses (i.e., the Communists themselves) be used to guard against imperialist and feudal activity.**

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NEW IRAQI CABINET MEMBERS

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Dr. Faisal al Samir         | - Guidance                                       |
| 2. Awni Yusuf                  | - Works and Housing                              |
| 3. Dr. Nadia Dulaymi           | - Municipalities - (the lone woman)              |
| 4. Judge Abdul Latif al Shawaf | - Commerce - (NDP Socialist and friend of Qasim) |

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